



DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION

Wisconsin State Agency 101

A SERIES PREPARED BY



INSTITUTE FOR REFORMING GOVERNMENT

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STATE AGENCY FAST FACTS

AGENCY RESPONSIBILITIES

Often referred to inside Madison as the “**Department of All**,” the Department of Administration (DOA) oversees all other agencies as its main function is to assist the Governor in developing, implementing, and managing the state budget.

DOA is also responsible for borrowing and managing state debt, supporting state agencies through centralized services (vehicle fleet, printing, purchasing/procurement, human resources, etc.), and managing state leased and state-owned buildings.

The Bureau of Enterprise Fleet handles **30,000 fleet car reservations** annually.

DOA has a budget of over **\$600 million**, with more than **1,400 FTE** employees.

While the DOA budget has been generally static for a few years, it is funded largely by “charging” other agencies for the services it provides.

DID YOU KNOW?

DOA manages state general obligation debt (borrowing, typically for long term structures), which totaled **\$7.6 billion** as of June 30, 2021 (last date officially reported). The State occasionally will refinance debt, similar to refinancing a personal mortgage or a business debt.

TAXPAYER ALERT!

In 2021, the Department of Administration collected nearly **\$49 million in rent** and lease payments from other state agencies. The Bureau of Building Management oversees, maintains, and manages 30 DOA owned buildings equaling approximately **6,000,000 square feet** of space.

#DYK THE DOA MANAGES A FLEET OF STATE-OWNED VEHICLES WHICH SEE MORE THAN 30,000 RESERVATIONS EACH YEAR??

\$600 MILLION AGENCY BUDGET

1,400 EMPLOYEES



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REFORM HISTORY

Selling state property: In 2013, Governor Walker and Legislature established a process to sell state property, such as buildings, heating plants, and real estate. Despite years of discussions, no major sales have occurred, in part because of an overly bureaucratic process creating uncertainty for private markets.

CLOSE CALL

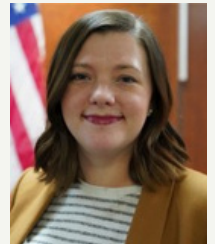
The State's general obligation bond rating was upgraded by both Kroll (from AA+ to AAA) and S&P (from AA to AA+). Good news, right? Yes, but remember that the Governor's last budget proposal would have changed the State's financial position from a **BALANCE** of \$1.2 Billion to a **DEFICIT of nearly \$700 million** – an irresponsible change to the negative of over \$1.8 billion.



KEEP AN EYE ON...

Managing state space needs in the wake of the pandemic and remote work. Does that state need all of its current space or can the footprint - and cost - of multiple agencies be downsized?

DOA LEADERSHIP



The Department of Administration is headed by (featured left-to-right): Secretary-designee **Kathy Blumenfeld**, Deputy Secretary **Chris Patton**, and Assistant Deputy Secretary **Olivia Hwang**.

#DYK IT'S THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION TO MANAGE THE STATE GENERAL DEBT - REFINANCING AND MAKING PAYMENTS JUST LIKE YOU MIGHT ON A HOME LOAN.

IRG WANTS TO KNOW...

WHAT WOULD YOU DO??

If you were in charge for a day, what reforms would you make to the Department? Email Alex Ignatowski, IRG's Director of State Budget and Government Reform, at ai@reforminggovernment.org.

ABOUT IRG



INSTITUTE FOR REFORMING GOVERNMENT

The Institute for Reforming Government (IRG) is a 501 (c) 3 and Wisconsin-based think tank established to help remove the onerous barriers and red tape separating the individual from an efficient and functioning government.

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